



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Virginia Man Sentenced to 16 Years in 2008 Killing - Victim Was Stabbed in Robbery -

WASHINGTON - Keyone Jackson, 29, of Stafford, Va., has been sentenced to 16 years of incarceration on charges stemming from a killing that took place during a robbery in October 2008, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today.

Jackson pleaded guilty in July 2009 to voluntary manslaughter while armed and conspiracy to commit armed robbery in the slaying of Paul Simmons in the 3500 block of Clay Place SE. He was sentenced Oct. 6, 2010 by the Honorable Frederick H. Weisberg in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

According to the defendant's own statements, he and a co-conspirator planned to rob the victim. After ensuring that his co-conspirator was armed, Jackson drove them to Simmons's home on Oct. 4, 2008 and entered the residence under the pretense of purchasing marijuana. Simmons resisted the robbery and the incident soon escalated into a physical confrontation, during which the co-conspirator pulled out his knife and stabbed the victim in the heart and lung. After ransacking the apartment, Jackson and his co-conspirator fled and divided the proceeds of the robbery between them. After their departure, Simmons, 40, managed to crawl out of his apartment and flag down cars for assistance, but he died within an hour of the stabbing.

The alleged co-conspirator, Antonio Bryant, 23, has been charged by indictment with several offenses arising out of this incident, including first degree murder (felony murder). Bryant is to stand trial in February 2011. An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of criminal laws and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

In announcing the sentence, United States Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation for the work of the Metropolitan Police Department, and particularly praised the efforts of Violent Crimes Branch Detectives Gus Giannakoulis and Thomas Webb, as well as Sergeant Christopher Kaufman, all of whom spent many hours investigating the case and interviewing the

defendant. He also commended the work of the U.S. Attorney's office staff who handled this case, including paralegal Kelly Blakeney. Finally, he praised the work of Assistant United States Attorneys Alessio Evangelista and Sharad Khandelwal, who prosecuted the case.

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